

Message Text

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63

ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RMILES:SB

APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY

EUR:JAARMITAGE

S/S O R. ELTZ

EUR/SOV:WHLUERS

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R 110034Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 222702

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, UR, US, XF

SUBJ: TERRORIST POSSESSION OF SOVIET ORIGIN GROUND TO

AIR MISSILES

REF: STATE 202371, STATE 189495

1. ACTING SECRETARY RUSH CALLED IN SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN TO EXPRESS OUR SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE THREAT POSED BY SOPHISTICATED, PORTABLE WEAPONS LIKE THE SOVIET SA-7 IF THEY FALL INTO TERRORIST HANDS. THE ACTING UNDER SECRETARY PORTERS CONVERSATION WITH MR. VORONTSOV REGARDING THIS PROBLEM, WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS WHICH INDICATE THAT ADDITIONAL SUCH WEAPONS MAY HAVE REACHED TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

2. AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN ASKED IF WE COULD PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION, AND OBSERVED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT WISH TO APPROACH EVERY RECIPIENT GOVERNMENT UNLESS THERE ARE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT THEY MAY HAVE PASSED THE WEAPONS ON IRRESPONSIBLY. HE WAS SURE, IF WE COULD GIVE FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THE TRANSFER REPORTEDLY OCCURRED, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION,
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WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE US APPROACH TO THE USSR.

3. THE ACTING SECRETARY INFORMED DOBRYNIN THAT HE COULD NOT BE MORE SPECIFIC AT THIS TIME. WE HAVE REPORTS WHICH

APPEAR RELIABLE WHICH INDICATE THAT TERRORIST

ORGANIZATIONS ARE GETTING THESE WEAPONS. THE ACTING SECRETARY WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT WE HAVE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO SUPPLY OUR REDEYE MISSILE TO GOVERNMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE BELIEVE THAT MANY GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA ARE SO CLOSELY ALLIED WITH PALESTINIAN GROUPS THAT THE DANGER OF UNAUTHORIZED DISSEMINATION IS GREAT. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT DOUBT THE ASSURANCES THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN US, WE ARE VERY CONCERNED OVER THE REPORTS THAT THESE SOVIET WEAPONS ARE IN FACT REACHING IRRESPONSIBLE HANDS. GIVEN THE CONVICTION OF SOME PALESTINIANS THAT TERRORIST ACTS ARE JUSTIFIED TO ACHIEVE THEIR ENDS, CIVIL AIRCRAFT OF ISRAEL AND OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL COULD BE THREATENED IF TERRORISTS POSSESS SUCH WEAPONS.

4. DOBRYNIN CONCURRED THAT THE DANGER IS MOST SERIOUS, BUT REITERATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT COULD MORE EASILY DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM IF WE COULD INFORM HIM IN WHAT COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFERS OF THESE WEAPONS MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

5. THE ACTING SECRETARY AGREED TO SEE IF MORE INFORMATION MIGHT BE PROVIDED AND EMPHASIZED AGAIN OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER THE DANGER THESE WEAPONS POSE TO CIVIL AVIATION.

6. WHEN LEAVING THE BUILDING, DOBRYNIN TOLD THE DEPARTMENT OFFICER ESCORTING HIM THAT HE WOULD DELAY HIS MESSAGE TO MOSCOW ON THE CONVERSATION UNTIL HE HAD BEEN NOTIFIED WHETHER WE COULD PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE REPORTED TRANSFER OF THE SA-7 TO TERRORIST HANDS.

7. THE DEPARTMENT IS CONSULTING WITH OTHER AGENCIES TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FORMING THE BASIS FOR OUR CONCERN CAN BE USED
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TO PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO BE PASSED TO DOBRYNIN. RUSH

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